

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2882

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2923

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJ: SOCIALISTS AND PCP MEET WITH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL

REF: (A) LISBON 2921; (B) FBIS LONDON 240331Z

SUMMARY: SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERS MET SEPARATELY WITH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MAY 23. SOCIALISTS STILL BOYCOTTING GOVERNMENT. SOARES IS DEPARTING FOR MEETING OF EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS WHERE HE WILL PROBABLY SEEK MORE SUPPORT. COMMUNISTS HOLDING TO HARD LINE. AFM ASSEMBLY TO MEET MAY 26 AND WILL CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR ESTABLISHING DIRECT, NON-PARTY LINKS TO "PEOPLE." INTENSE LOBBYING UNDERWAY. END SUMMARY.

1. POLITICAL SITUATION REMAINS TENSE. NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF SOCIALIST PARTY MET MORE THAN FOUR HOURS WITH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL DURING AFTERNOON MAY 23. NO STATEMENT ISSUED BUT WE UNDERSTAND SOARES WILL GO TO FRANCE TODAY (WRTH) TO ATTEND MEETING OF EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS. (HE WAS TO HAVE GONE
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ON 21ST BUT CANCELLED TRIP BECAUSE OF EVENTS HERE.) SOCIALISTS

STILL MAINTAINING POSITION THAT PARTY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN COALITION GOVERNMENT UNLESS THEIR DEMANDS FOR EQUAL ACCESS TO MEDIA AND ELECTIONS IN UNIONS AND MUNICIPALITIES ARE GRANTED.

2. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH SOCIALISTS, REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MET WITH COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERS CUNHAL AND PATO UNTIL 1 AM MAY 24.

3. TOUGH PCP POSITION EVIDENT FROM STATEMENTS MADE BY COMMUNIST-LINING PARTIES MES AND FSP. MES (REF B): "WE BELIEVE MOST PROGRESSIVE AND REVOLUTIONARY WING OF THE AFM NOW GAINING THE UPPER HAND, AND THIS FORCE CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING THE UNIFICATION OF POWER... THIS UNIFICATION OF POWER MUST NOT BE VIEWED AS A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP PURE AND SIMPLE." MES ALSO STATES ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES MUST BE SUBORDINATED. FSP STATEMENT ALLEGES SOCIALIST PARTY FOLLOWING A U.S.-SPONSORED COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY PLAN AS INSTRUMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM.

4. IN CURRENT TENSE SITUATION, THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF ASSEMBLY OF AFM MAY 26 ACQUIRES INCREASED IMPORTANCE (LISBON 2916). SCHEDULED TO BE DEBATED ARE TWO PROPOSALS, ONE CALLING FOR REVOLUTIONARY COUNCILS OF WORKERS, SOLDIERS, AND SAILORS, SPONSORED BY SOME AFM MEMBERS. ANOTHER PROPOSAL CALLS FOR THE CREATION OF COMMITTEES FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION AND IS SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF DYNAMIZATION. BOTH PROPOSALS ENVISAGE DIRECT AND SUPRAPARTY TIES BETWEEN THE AFM AND THE "PEOPLE."

5. COMMENT: (A) SOARES' DEPARTURE FOR FRANCE SUGGESTS HE BELIEVES SITUATION WILL REMAIN STABLE UNTIL AFM ASSEMBLY MEETS MAY 26. HE WILL PROBABLY USE MEETING IN FRANCE TO SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT FROM EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS.

(B) SOCIALISTS STANDING FIRM FOR THE PRESENT BUT THEY WILL BE UNDER STRONG PRESSURE TO FIND "COMPROMISE" SOLUTION. WORRISOME PORTENT IS STATEMENT BY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL SPOKESMAN VASCO LOURENCO "DISAPPROVING" OF "PARTISAN PROPAGANDA" SURROUNDING THE CLOSING OF THE NEWSPAPER REPUBLICA AND THE "BOGEYMAN" CHARGES OF A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP. OTHER PRESSURES
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ARE THE PCP CALL FOR THE CANCELLATION OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IF SOCIALISTS PULL OUT OF THE COALITION, AND THE AFM'S CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHING DIRECT ORGANIZATIONAL LINKS TO THE "PEOPLE."

(C) FACT THAT ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED TO CONSIDER DIRECT AFM TIES TO "PEOPLE" DOES NOT AUGUR WELL FOR SOCIALISTS, ALTHOUGH VIEWS OF ASSEMBLY -- AND FOR THAT MATTER, REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL --

REMAIN LARGE QUESTION MARK EVEN TO THOSE MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED.
WE ANTICIPATE ANXIOUS NOSE-COUNTING ON THIS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND.
CARLUCCI

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